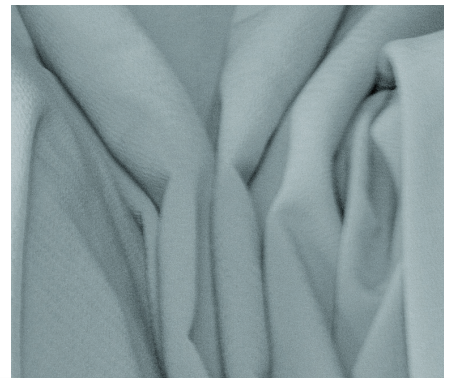


# Justice For All



## Protecting the Rights of Citizens

[www.j4a-nigeria.org](http://www.j4a-nigeria.org)

State Impact Report  
**Issue 4: Kaduna  
& Kano**



# Introduction

**This impact report records the progress that has been made in justice sector reform in Kano and Kaduna states. The interventions supported by the J4A programme are showing positive results in the form of improved service delivery.**

The improved performance of justice institutions has been recognized and supported by communities. This has been demonstrated by the increased level of

public satisfaction revealed in annual surveys. With regard to policing reforms in both states, the “joined up” approach adopted by the J4A programme has resulted in a better relationship between the community, the NPF and the informal policing structures. For example, in the case of the Wudil Division in Kano state, increased confidence in the police has led to an increase in the reporting of crime. In Kaduna State, a major area of J4A intervention has been the reform of the lower courts. In this instance the success of the J4A interventions is evidenced by the increase in court user satisfaction in the last two years. There has also been a remarkable decrease in the time taken to process cases by the model Magistrate’s courts, Sharia courts and Customary

courts. The ability to dispose of cases, effectively has demonstrated that solutions are available to the notorious problem of court delays.

The underlying logic of the J4A programme has been to develop models of best practice and through these (whether in the policing sector or in the courts) encourage Nigerian stakeholders to replicate the experience and generate further positive results. The work undertaken and completed in Kano and Kaduna states and the positive public responses generated, provides compelling evidence to the respective state governments and federal government to commit more resources to further scale-up the interventions.

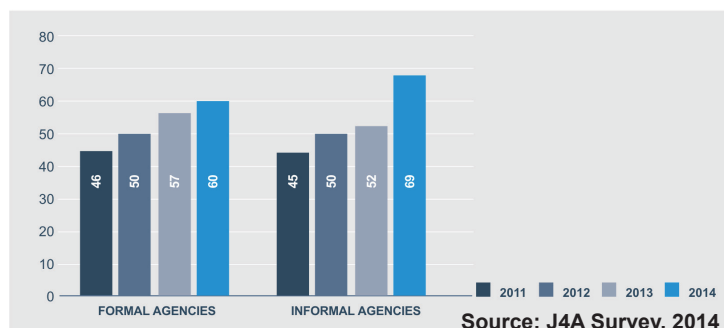




## Increased Satisfaction with the Justice System in Kano State

Satisfaction with the performance of the Kano State justice sector has increased over the last three years during J4A's interventions. The J4A programme has been providing support to the formal and informal justice organisations in the state to improve their delivery of services. Overall satisfaction with the formal and informal justice organisations has increased by 14% and 24% respectively over the three year period.

Satisfaction with the Performance of Justice Agencies in Kano State



## Kano State Protecting The Rights of Citizens

### Kano Civil Society Forum Establishes a Human Rights Violations Complaints Committee



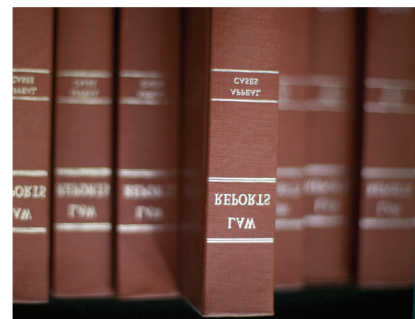
The J4A supported Kano Civil Society Forum (KCSF) is a coalition of CSOs working on protecting the rights of citizens in Kano State. Assistance to the KCSF has been towards promoting accountability for the human rights abuses committed by security operatives (Joint Task Force) engaged in fighting insurgency in the state. As a result of the support from J4A the KCSF has established a rights viola-

tion complaint mechanism, which is known as the 'Human Rights Violations Complaints Committee' (HRVCC). The mechanism aims to document, monitor and seek redress for the victims of human rights abuses in the state.

The complaints system, which is facilitated by the coalition of CSOs serves as a clearing house for complaints because some members of the public are fearful about taking complaints of rights violations to the same institution that is being accused of the abuses. The mechanism collates complaints from victims and channels them to the appropriate institution for redress.

The HRVCC was inaugurated by the Kano State Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, M.K. Umar and has started receiving and processing human rights complaints from members of the public. Its membership is drawn from representatives of the Army, Police, State Security Services, Nigerian Bar Association, FIDA, Kano Emirate Council, National Human Rights Commission, Kano State Public Complaints and Anti-Corruption Commission, the Kano State Justice Sector Reform Team and the KCSF.

### Law on Rape Reform Provides Tough Penalties for Perpetrators



The Kano State Justice Sector Reform Team (KJSRT), a J4A supported initiative is leading the reform on sexual/gender based violence laws in the state. The KJSRT has set out several initiatives to address the issue and commissioned a review of the relevant provisions of the Penal Code. One of their aims is to increase the punishment for rape related offences to serve as a deterrent to perpetrators. Following the review and legislative advocacy, the Kano State House of Assembly passed the draft amendment bill into law and increased the punishment for rape on conviction from 2 to 14 years imprisonment without an option of a fine. The law was signed into law by the Executive Governor of the state, Dr. Rabiul Kwankwaso before he ended his tenure.

## Improving Court Performance

### Kaduna State Deploys New Performance Management System in Lower Courts



A survey commissioned by the J4A programme has revealed that the target based performance management system (PMS) newly deployed across lower courts in the state is helping to improve the service delivery of the institution. The new PMS is being

used as an institutional oversight and accountability framework for strengthening the performance of judges and employees of lower courts. Evaluations conducted across all the pilot courts showed that attitudinal and behavioral changes have been made by judicial officers and court staff. It revealed that they are embracing a new culture of delivering services to court users.

Some of the noticeable changes amongst the personnel of pilot courts include an increase in punctuality and accountability, improved relationships between court staff and users, better team work and increased efficiency in the dispensation of justice.

One of the strengths of the system is the feedback process, which enables those evaluated to know their strengths and weakness. The advantage of this according to a Judge of an Upper Customary Court is that it enables staff to make targeted adjustments and improve on their performance.

According to a senior officer in the Personnel Department of the Sharia Court of Appeal, *“Unlike the Annual Performance Evaluation system (APER), the current PMS takes cognizance of officers’ dedication to duty. The way he works is now observed, monitored and assessments are based on findings. Not partiality”.*

### Increased Efficiency in Handling Lower Court Cases



The support provided by the J4A programme to lower courts in Kaduna State is helping to reduce the time taken to dispose of cases.

In order to achieve this a number of measures were adopted which include

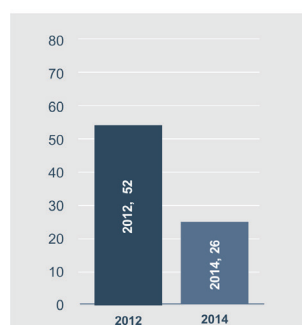
the development and application of time standards to guide courts on the length of time spent on a particular type of case. The programme also delivered case management training and mentoring course for judges and the application of records management modules for court staff. Capacity building sessions on effective practices were implemented for other support staff such as bailiffs and police prosecutors in order to improve the speedy dispensation of justice.

As part of its reform strategy the Customary Court of Appeal adopted the

time standard in a practice direction and made it applicable to all Customary Courts in the state.

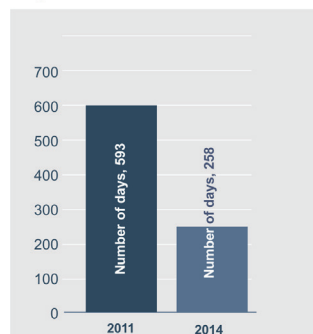
The combination of these efforts are now contributing to improving the efficiency of lower courts in the state which has resulted in the reduction of the time taken to dispose of cases. For instance- from 2011 to 2014 there was a 56% reduction in the time taken to dispose of cases in Magistrate Courts; a 50% and 19% reduction in the Sharia and Customary Court respectively between 2012 and 2014.

Number of Days it Takes to Dispose Cases in Sharia Courts



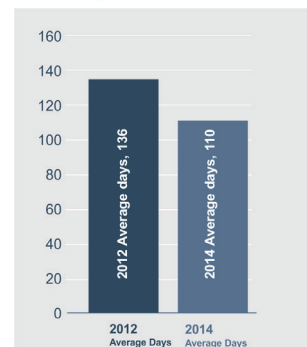
Source: J4A Survey, 2014

Average Number of Days from Filing to Disposal of a Cases in Magistrates Courts



Source: J4A Survey, 2014

Average Number of Days from Filing to Disposal of a Cases in Customary Courts



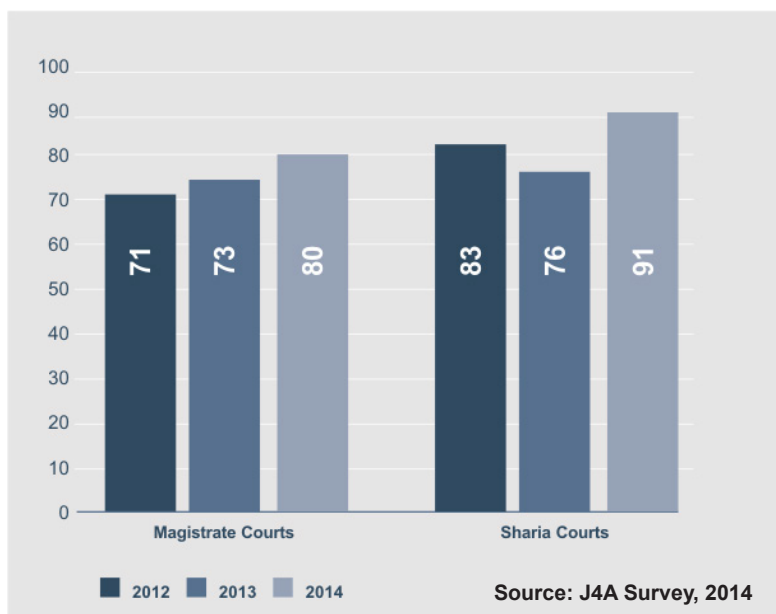
Source: J4A Survey, 2014

## Increased Client Satisfaction with Lower Courts in Kaduna State

The level of user satisfaction with the services provided by the J4A supported Courts in Kaduna State has continued to improve. Results from the survey commissioned by the programme in July 2014 showed that court staff are much more courteous and professional in the way they deal with clients. It also shows that satisfaction with the Magistrates and Sharia Courts in the last two years has increased by 8% and 9% respectively.

In order to achieve these changes the J4A programme supported the refurbishment of structures and facilities so that courts can become more conducive for users and staff alike. In addition to this, court staff were trained on client service, which was linked to the newly introduced Performance Management System that measures the services provided by court staff.

Overall Satisfaction with Kaduna Lower Courts



## Effective Voluntary Policing through Partnerships in Wudil

The J4A programme has adopted a “joined up” approach to improving safety in communities has led to the establishment of Community Accountability Forums (CAF) and Voluntary Policing Sector/Nigeria Police Force Coordination forums. These forums, which have been established in different communities, provide a platform for community members, security personnel (both formal and informal) and other stakeholders to interact, discuss and proffer solutions to crime and safety issues within their communities.

A recent evaluation of this intervention showed that the J4A support has achieved a significant impact on community relations with evidence of real engagement between the community, VPS and the police.

NPF and VPS response to incidents of armed robbery, burglary, drug abuse and child kidnapping which were prevalent in the past are being addressed

through the CAF and has increased information/intelligence gathering, joint patrols and prompt response to tip-offs from community members. In an interview with the head of cattle market labourers in Wudil, Mallam Kawu Ustaz said, “In the past we had cases of drug abuse, theft and robbery; most of these people were outsiders. Today a lot of these issues have reduced”.

The evaluation also revealed that community members feel more informed about the need to collaborate with the VPS/NPF and provide information on crime, report suspicious movements and suspected criminal activities in the community to the police through the VPS.

Traditional rulers have attested to the effectiveness of the CAF and NPF/VPS forums. The village head of Sabon-Gari Wudil, Alhajj Garba Adamu said, “In the past we used to address at least 20 to 30 cases in a week just within Wudil town, now we go up to a month without having more than 3 cases to address”.

In general there is a feeling of safety and credit for this has been given to the joint efforts of the local government, traditional rulers, VPS and NPF collaborations through the J4A promoted forums.







## Improved Police Relations with Community Members

J4A in collaboration with the NPF delivery team have been providing support to the Wudil Model Police Station (MPS) in Kano State. This support, which is aimed at establishing a world class police station through training, mentoring and the introduction of new policing methods, is also helping to improve community relations and confidence in the police.

The increased confidence in the police has resulted in a rise in the number of community members reporting crime to the Wudil Division. Since the commencement of the J4A supported

MPS Programme there has been a 75% increase in the number of crimes reported. For example, in a 12-month period from May 2014 to May 2015 there were a total of 273 reports compared to 156 cases in 2013.

This provides clear evidence of the growing community support for and confidence in the work of the police in the Wudil Division. It is expected that there will be further increases in the number of cases reported in the future as trust and confidence in the police increases.

## Kano State to Replicate MPS Interventions across all Police Stations in the State

The Kano State Commissioner of Police, CP Ibrahim Idris at the monthly police meeting informed all Divisional Police Officers (DPO) to understudy and replicate the J4A supported Model Police Station (MPS) interventions in their respective divisions. The CP directed all the DPOs to visit the Sabon Gari MPS and commence implementation immediately.

This directive shows that the senior management of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) believes in and recognizes the need for reform, its

importance and the benefits of the changes taking place within the NPF as a result of the supported interventions. A J4A commissioned survey has revealed that as at May 2015 a total of 17 MPS initiatives have been replicated in non-MPS stations in Kano State

Findings from surveys in different communities across the J4A supported states reveal that there is popular support for the MPS initiatives in communities.

## Sabon Gari Community Safety Partnership Rehabilitates an Ex-Criminal

The J4A supported Community Safety Partnership in the Sabon Gari Division of Kano State is helping to address a number of community safety issues. One key area is identifying and tackling the reasons why young people in the area get involved in crime.

In trying to resolve the problem the CSP held a meeting with a notorious criminal Saeed Abdullatib who had been re-offending for seven years committing crimes, which included housebreaking, theft and robbery. Through conversations with Saeed the CSP established that the cause of his re-offending had been a result of his lack of education and employment. He turned to crime as a means to feed himself, which spiraled out of control. Saeed felt that he had no other alternatives in life other than crime.

The CSP assisted Saeed by helping with his rehabilitation. Saeed became employed, secured a place on a technical education programme and was provided a home. Through the help of the CSP Saeed refrained from committing crime, successfully undertook the education programme and continued to be employed. Saeed has since found new direction in his life and has now returned to his family home in Ibadan, Oyo State for a fresh start.

In an interview with the Chief Superintendent of Police Bello Shaibu, who is the Divisional Police Officer and a partner of the CSP, he stated, *"This initiative has had a great impact on this young man. Saeed has been a serious problem for the police over the past years and although we have been successful in prosecuting him for his crimes the reasons for his involvement in crime had never been identified. I am very proud of the assistance the CSP has provided and we wish Saeed success in the future. Looking at the cause of crime is very important to every community and we will continue to work in partnership with the CSP to safeguard our community through interventions such as this."*

## Neighborhood Watch Kano State Appoints J4A's VPS Coordinator

The J4A Voluntary Policing Service (VPS) coordinator, Mallam Mashi has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Neighborhood Watch Kano State Command. The appointment was in recognition of his dedicated service and work with the VPS in Kano State. The inauguration

of the Board took place on the 5th March 2014.

It is believed that this appointment will contribute greatly to ensuring the sustainability of the VPS project in Kano State even after J4A comes to an end in 2016.

## VPS Training on Human Rights and Gender Awareness Paying Off

J4A supported the establishment of a Community Accountability Forum (CAF) in Sabon Tasha and Zaria City in Kaduna State. The programme supported the training of VPS members on basic policing skills, human rights, conflict management and organizational management. This was aimed at enhancing the service delivery of the VPS to members of their communities as well as improving the working relationship with the NPF.

Participants at the training revealed that human rights violations are now being taken into consideration when dealing with suspects. They revealed that as a result of the training from J4A, they no longer pressurise sus-

pects but that such cases are handed over to the police for proper investigations.

Misunderstandings between the communities, police and VPS members have also been resolved as a result of the interaction that was made possible through the CAF.

The CAF has also provided an opportunity for women to participate and make decisions on crimes that affect women and girls, such as rape and domestic violence. Issues such as underage girls running away from their homes as a result of abuse (a developing trend) are also being discussed and resolved at the CAF meetings.

## Satisfied Community Member Rewards MPS District Intelligence Unit in Kaduna

Sabon Tasha District Intelligence Unit has recently taken possession of a computer, scanner and printer donated by one of the members of the local community.

The donation was made as a result of the improving community relations in the division. Due to the improved relations, members of the community were informed about the work of the new District Intelligence Unit at the Model Police Station.

According to the Lead Delivery Team member Chief Superintendent Aliyu Musa *"The people see this as an important development, particularly for community safety and decided to donate the equipment to help the officers in Sabon Tasha."*

## Highlights of Achievement in Kaduna and Kano States

- Case management system introduced and adopted in Magistrates court
- Information boards and complaint boxes now being utilized in lower courts
- A women's CAF has been inaugurated in Kano State with the aim of dealing with issues of gender based violence
- The CAF idea is being replicated in Birnin Gwari to help improve the relationship between the Flani
- community, VPS and the NPF so as to help resolve the on-going crisis between Fulanis and other members of the community.
- As a result of their achievements some CAF and VPS in Kano States have started receiving financial support and equipment from their Local Governments.
- The J4A coordinator for VPS in Kano State, Mallam Mashi has been appointed to the Board of Trustees for the Kano
- State Neighbourhood Watch Group
- The only female VPS commandant in Kano State and supported by the J4A programme Ms Christy Adebayo from the Sabon Gari Division, has received a commendation letter from the DPO Chief Superintendent Shuaibu Bello for her commitment and dedication to fighting crime

## Success Story

**NAME:**

Emmanuel Rinfat

**PROFILE:**

Mr. Rinfat is a borehole driller who said the J4A support towards improving efficiency and service delivery in the magistrate's court has impacted on him

**STORY SO FAR:**

Emmanuel was arraigned before the magistrate's court on Ibrahim Taiwo road in Kaduna State on a charge of extortion. He was on bail and his case was slated for judgment on the day he spoke to him.

On his experience in court, Emmanuel says he has no problem keeping to the court's time. He said, "The registrar told me the court sits from 10am every day. I usually come ahead of time to avoid coming late. I am on bail and I was told that if I am absent I risk having my bail revoked and I don't want that to happen to me. I have noticed that the court usually commences sitting between 10am and 10:15am. They are prompt and keep to time. Whenever I make an enquiry, they respond nicely all the time."

“ One of the court staff (a lady) even gave me her phone number to enable me reach her whenever the court is not sitting. They give me time to state my side of the story and there has been no discrimination. I thought because I am an accused and a defendant, they will not be

nice to me but they are always nice to me. Anything I don't understand, I ask them and they tell me. ”

**NEXT STEPS:**

A court user engagement through a town hall meeting is planned to provide a forum for users and court personnel to interact

**NAME:**

Yaw Mohammed

**PROFILE:**

Mallam Yaw is the traditional village head of Danfadad Village in Western Wudil. He recently paid a visit to the Wudil MPS site because of the good things he had heard about the police station from his village members

**STORY SO FAR:**

During his visit to the MPS site Yaw Mohammed spoke with the station officer, Inspector Mohammed Umar and congratulated the DPO, Adamu Babayo and his staff on their involvement with the J4A programme and the good relationships they had developed with his community.

The village head explained that during his dealings with the community he had been told by many of his villagers that they were very satisfied with the way the police were dealing with their complaints. He said, *"The community now feels safer because of their confidence and trust in the police"*.

He further stressed that there has been a lot of improvement in the relationship between the police and the community. He said,

“ The police are listening to the people and treating their cases more urgently. They are now listening better to grievances. The police are now friendly and people are happier to make reports because they are treated better when they go to the Wudil Division. ”



YAW MOHAMMED, VILLAGE HEAD DANFADAL AT AN INSPECTION OF THE WUDIL MPS SITE

**NEXT STEP**

J4A will continue to work with the NPF by providing the support needed to build a Community Policing ethos and to help officers recognise and improve their attitudes and skills towards Gender, Human Rights and the less privileged members of society.

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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