

Network of Justice Sector Reform Teams Organizes Replication Event in Lagos State



The eight edition of the Network of the Justice Sector Reform Teams (JSRT) was held in collaboration with J4A on 13th May 2014. The 3-day event, which was held in Lagos State shared lessons from J4A supported pilot projects. This was aimed at promoting and encouraging the replication of reform initiatives.

More than 60 representatives of justice sector agencies and observer states were in attendance from across Nigeria. Members presented successful justice sector reform projects they had implemented in their states. Some of these include the administration of criminal justice, accessible and affordable justice, women and children's rights, monitoring and evaluation, public awareness raising and training.

The event provided the opportunity for observer states to study the Justice Reform Team model, learn from the experiences of other members and decide what they want to replicate in their states. The Chief Judge of Edo State, Hon. Justice Idahosa Cromwell indicated interest in establishing a reform team in his state and said he would seek the help of experienced states and J4A.

J4A will monitor the progress of observer states and continue to work with JSRTs that are replicating new initiatives. A series of *How to Guides* which explain how to implement the interventions have been created, these can be accessed from the J4A website www.j4a-Nigeria.org

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Community Paralegal and Village Mediation Project Comes to an End



Lessons Learnt:

1. For CP VM interventions to be effective it needs the support and buy-in of traditional rulers. This group must be reassured that CPs & VMs are not in competition with them.
2. For commitment and compliance to the Code of Conduct, close monitoring and mentoring are keys to success
3. For sustainability and for volunteers to remain as paralegals and mediators there is need for some form of incentive. This is why the Enugu State Government is in the process of employing the J4A supported CPs and VMs as staff of the Citizen's Rights and Mediation Centers across its local governments.

The Justice for All programme provided support to CiRDDoC, a Nigerian CSO in Enugu state, to train and mentor Community Paralegals (CP) and Village Mediators (VM) to improve the services provided by the informal justice system. The project was aimed at increasing access to justice by providing an alternative dispute resolution mechanism for poor community members.

The project was implemented in three Local Government Areas in the Ngwogo, Nara, Nkerefi, Nomeh and Eha-Amufu communities in Enugu State. Twenty Community Paralegals and 150 Village Mediators acquired skills for resolving disputes with particular attention to gender and human rights issues. CPs were also trained to train others in order to expand the reach of the programme beyond the pilot communities.

To mark the end of the project a CPVMP stakeholder's forum was organized to showcase successes, benefits and promote replication across the state. The event was attended by 80 practitioners from the justice sector.

The achievements of the CVMP project are numerous but one major difference it made was the reduction in the backlog of cases in the formal justice system. It has also helped poor and vulnerable indigenes gain access to speedy justice at relatively low cost in civil and minor criminal cases.

"I will come back to seek the services of CPs and VMs because of the satisfaction I got in the way my case was handled. I have even referred another 3 cases."

Beneficiary
Eha-Amufu Community

Community members now have more confidence in the informal justice system with an 88% success rate in dispute resolution.

Building Support Systems For Women in Northern Nigeria

In order to promote the safety and security of poor local community members especially women, the Justice for All programme is providing support for the implementation and the replication of the Community Accountability Forums (CAF) across Kano State. The project is being implemented in five communities which include Sabon Gari, Bompai, Wudil, Hotoro and Farm Center.

The women's forum which is linked to the CAF was introduced to raise awareness amongst women regarding what to do when confronted with sexual violence related offences. It has also provided them with the necessary information required to enable them to take proactive measures against such violence, report the perpetrator and seek victim support services immediately.

Thanks to this support women are now participating in CAF meetings and using the platform for resolving disputes.

The CAF in Kano has also helped to build trust between members of the community, police and voluntary policing groups. This initiative has succeeded in strengthening the working relationship between the VPS and the NPF in five pilot Model Police Station locations.



"We are now seeing the result of the training the police are getting ...as you can see my members are happy to be here to support the police and the VPS groups".

CAF Leader,
Sabon Gari, Kano

J4A Officially Hands Over the Nigerian Police Force Strategic Guidelines

In collaboration with the Nigeria Police Force Technical Working Group J4A supported the development of nine Strategic Guidelines for the NPF. These guidelines include strategies for Accountability, Counter-Terrorism, Integrated Intelligence, Community Policing, Fleet Management, Human Resource Management, Diversity, Use of Force, and PR and Media.

On the 23rd July 2014 a formal presentation of the guidelines was made to all officers at the Nigerian Police Force Headquarters in Abuja. The presentation event was attended by members of the NPF Senior Management Team, Deputy Inspector Generals, Assistant Inspector Generals, Commissioners and other senior officers of the NPF.

The intervention was designed to enable the NPF to operate in a decisive, focused, coordinated and consistent manner by ensuring that officers respond appropriately to the increasingly challenging security issues in Nigeria.

"The Strategic Guidelines are without doubt a landmark achievement in the history of the Nigerian Police."

Former Inspector General of Police

"These strategies will assist us to improve how we provide policing service and more importantly, the type of service the Nigerian public receives from us."

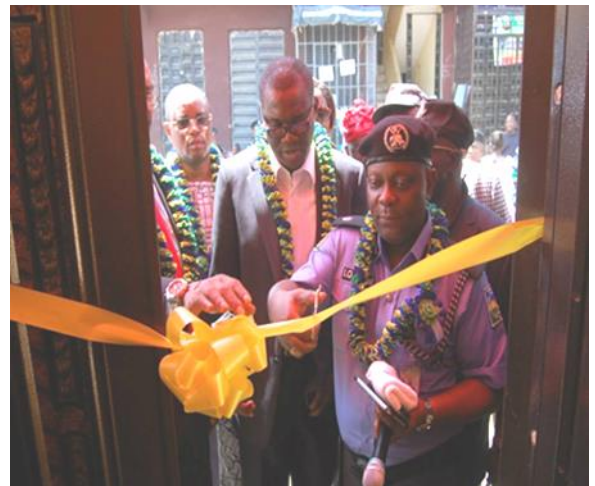
Inspector General of Police,

Inauguration of Family Support Unit, Adeniji-Adele Police Station, Lagos

Saturday May 17th 2014 saw the formal inauguration of the Family Support Unit (FSU) at the Adeniji-Adele police station on Lagos Island. This station has been selected by J4A as a primary dissemination site in order to extend the work that has commenced at the Isokoko Model Police Station in Lagos.

J4A had trained staff and made some small refurbishments at Adeniji-Adele and this, combined with the progressive role of the Divisional Police Officer Monday Agbonika, had attracted the attention of the Ford Foundation. The Ford Foundation donated a vehicle to the Family Support Unit and extended the refurbishment of the unit.

The ability to attract the support of the Ford Foundation, reinforces J4A's strategic approach to change. By showcasing successful interventions at J4A supported Model Police Stations the project seeks to attract support, extension and replication of interventions by the NPF, other donors, state governments and the private sector.



The Lagos State Governor commended J4A and the Ford Foundation for building the facility, stressing that such work would help to improve the services the police provide to the public in the state, particularly victims of gender based and domestic violence.

"The FSUs are an integral part of the work being undertaken at the model police station sites. Successful FSUs can contribute to the reduction in the problems of gender based violence".

J4A National Programme
Manager

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